

Filed for intro on 02/05/97

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 29  
By Dunn

A RESOLUTION relative to the implementation of an external degree program within the University of Tennessee system.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that every citizen of the state of Tennessee should have access to a post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, disability, age or economic circumstances may prevent potential students from enrolling in and pursuing traditional undergraduate residential programs; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly recommends that the University of Tennessee research, develop and establish an alternative approach to the traditional undergraduate educational experience; and

WHEREAS, such alternative educational experience should be developed and implemented as an external degree program; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the University of Tennessee is hereby urged and encouraged to study the feasibility of developing and implementing an external degree program in order that non-traditional students may be afforded equal access to a college education.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this General Assembly hereby recommends that the following minimum requirements be considered in the feasibility study of the external degree program:

(a) For admission to the external degree program, an applicant should meet the following minimum requirements:

- (1) be a resident of Tennessee;
- (2) be 21 years of age or older;
- (3) have a high school diploma or a GED score of not less than 45;
- (4) have competence in writing, the ability to read discerningly, and the ability to assume the primary responsibility for learning; and
- (5) have educational goals attainable through the external degree program.

(b) The external degree program should allow credit to be earned towards a bachelor's degree by any of the following methods:

- (1) on-campus courses;
- (2) out-of-class learning contracts;
- (3) correspondence courses; or
- (4) prior learning.

(c) Academic planning may be conducted by telephone or written correspondence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of Tennessee system.

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AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting from the second resolving clause the language “be utilized in the implementation” and by substituting instead the language “be considered in the feasibility study”.